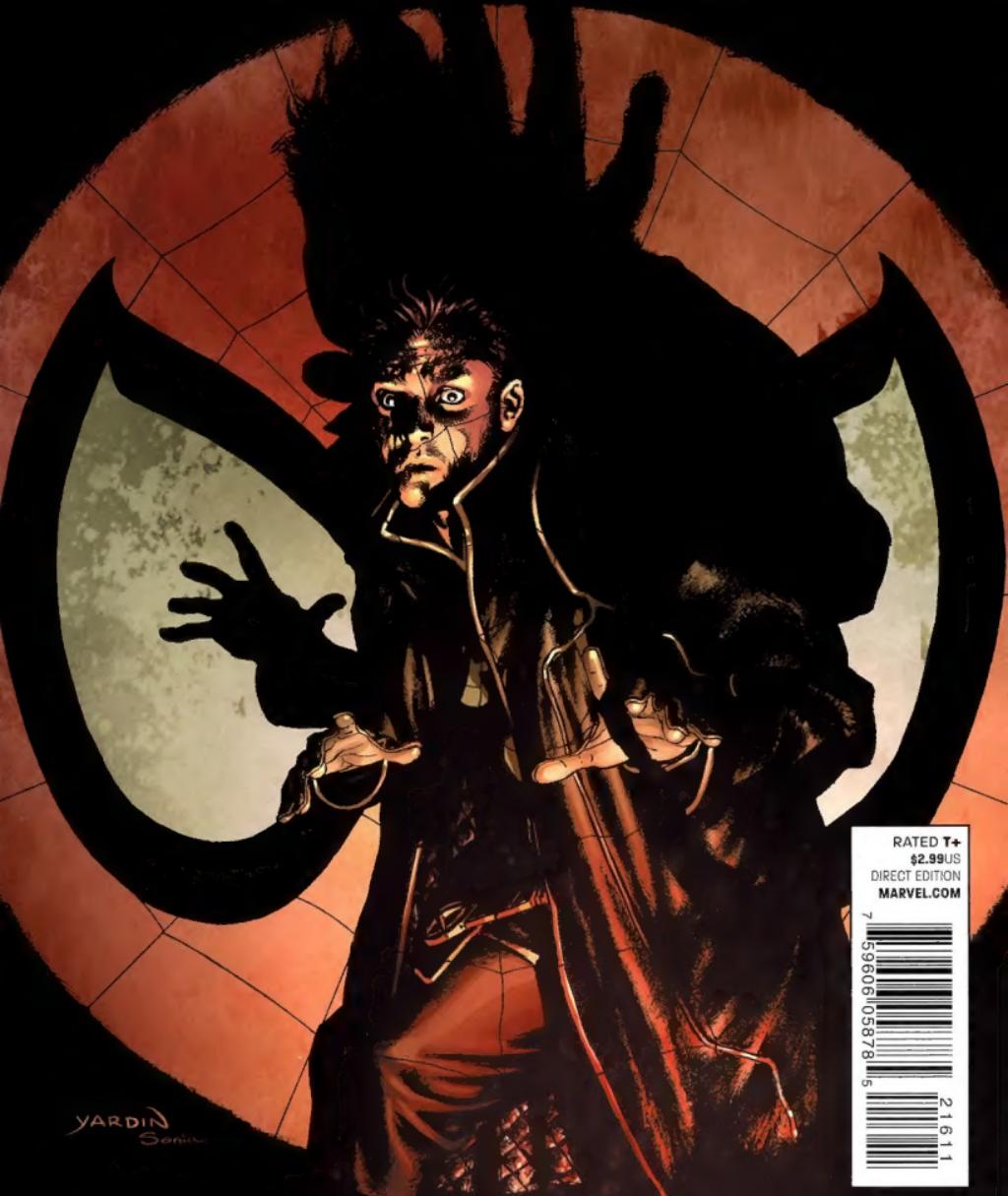


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X-FACTOR



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WHEN SUPERHUMANITY NEEDS A DETECTIVE AGENCY, THEY CALL UPON MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN AND HIS MUTANT TEAM OF INVESTIGATORS...

X-FACTOR



PREVIOUSLY...

X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS IS A DETECTIVE AGENCY OPERATING OUT OF NEW YORK CITY. OWNED AND OPERATED BY JAMIE MADROX, A.K.A. THE MULTIPLE MAN, X-F IS A COLLECTION OF MUTANTS, FORMER MUTANTS, A COUPLE OF OTHER-DIMENSIONAL WARRIORS, AND A TROLL WHO JOINED THE TEAM AS THEIR RECEPTIONIST AFTER AN ESCAPADE IN LAS VEGAS. A RECENT RETURNEE, RAHNE SINCLAIR, IS PREGNANT WITH THE CHILD OF AN ASGARDIAN WOLF GOD, ALTHOUGH FOR A TIME SHE ALLOWED FORMER FLAME RICTOR TO BELIEVE HE WAS FATHER OF THE CHILD FOR REASONS NOT RELEVANT TO THIS STORY. ALSO, THERE'S A SUPER HERO NAMED SPIDER-MAN WHO ACQUIRED POWERS FROM THE BITE OF A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, WHICH WILL BE RELEVANT, BUT YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNEW THAT.

NOTE: THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE BEFORE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #654.

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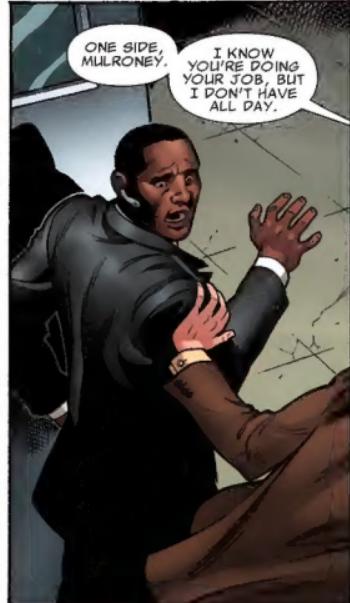
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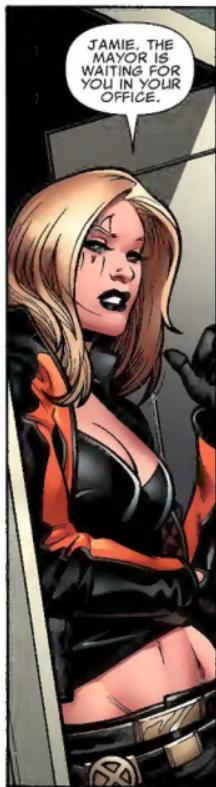














...YOU'LL
THANK ME
LATER.

"FIGHT FIRE
WITH FIRE,
RICTOR. THAT'S
MY MOTTO!"

"REALLY? I THOUGHT YOUR MOTTO WAS, 'DEAR LORD, PLEASE DON'T FORCE ME TO MAKE A DECISION.'"

"THAT'S NOT A MOTTO, THAT'S A LIFESTYLE CHOICE... ANYWAY..."



"WHEN I FIRST MOVED BACK TO NEW YORK, JAMESON HAD JUST BEEN INSTALLED AS MAYOR."

"I FIGURED WE'D WIND UP ON HIS RADAR IN NO TIME."



"SO RATHER THAN SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR HIM TO COME AFTER US..."

"...I FIGURED THE SIMPLEST THING WAS TO BEARD THE LION IN HIS DEN."



J. Jonah Jameson,
Mayor

"I BURST INTO HIS OFFICE, DETERMINED NOT TO TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER."



SURE, NO PROBLEM.

AH, YOU'RE HIS THREE O'CLOCK. HE'S RUNNING LATE, BUT IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND...?"



"YOU MADE AN APPOINTMENT AND THEN SAT AROUND? PRETTY HARDCORE, MADROX."



CAN I PREDICT THAT NO ONE IS GOING TO TRY AND FIREBOMB US? NO.

BUT THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO DO IT. WE'RE NOT ABOUT GETTING INTO HUGE BATTLES WITH WORLD DESTROYERS.

WE'RE JUST THERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO CAN PAY FOR OUR SERVICES.





HE QUOTED
"THE GODFATHER"!
SERIOUSLY?

ACTUALLY,
AS IT TURNED OUT,
HE'D NEVER SEEN
THE FILM.

APPARENTLY
YEARS AGO,
PUZO GOT THE
LINE FROM
HIM.



OKAY, BUT
IF HE ACCUSES
YOU OF TREATING
HIM WITH
DISRESPECT, I'M
OUTTA HERE.

MR.
MADROX.

MR. MAYOR.
THIS IS MY
ASSOCIATE,
RICKTOR.

MUTANT?

FORMER.
BEST
KIND.



SO
WHAT CAN I
DO FOR YOU,
MR. MAYOR?

YOU CAN
SOLVE A
MURDER
FOR ME.

IF IT'S
SOMETHING YOU'RE
ACCUSING SPIDER-MAN
OF DOING, I'LL TELL
YOU RIGHT NOW, HE'LL
TURN OUT TO BE
INNOCENT.



FOR ONCE,
THIS HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH THE
WALLCRAWLER. IT
HAS TO DO WITH
THIS MAN.

THIS THE
VIC?

THAT
MEANS
"VICTIM"...



I KNOW
WHAT IT MEANS.
YOU THINK I
NEVER WORKED
A CRIME BEAT?







TWO MORE PEOPLE ON THE ROOF. SEEM HARMLESS, BUT WE'LL WANT TO POST SOMEONE HERE.

NO, NO SIGN OF SPIDER-MAN. THE MAYOR NEEDS TO STOP BEING PARANOID.

THE GUY'S BEEN MAKING MY LIFE A LIVING HELL SINCE I STARTED THIS GIG.

IT'S NOT PARANOIA IF THEY REALLY ARE OUT TO GET YOU.

AND ARE YOU ONE OF "THEY"?

WOULD YOU BLAME ME IF I WERE?

WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?

EX... CUSE ME?

YOU SHOWED UP RIGHT AFTER THE FF. THE OBVIOUS QUESTION WAS: WHAT'S SPIDER-MAN'S DEAL, THAT HE'S HIDING BEHIND A MASK, WHEN THE FF IS OUT IN THE OPEN?

YOU HAVE TOTAL ANONYMITY, NEVER HAVING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANYTHING--

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. AND YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT?

LOOK, I TRIED TO WARN YOU. JUST REMEMBER: IF JAMESON HAS A PROBLEM...

...CHANCES ARE HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF.

ANOTHER THING YOU TWO HAVE IN COMMON.

OOOO, TOOSH.

THAT'S "TOUCHE," YOU MORON!

WHATEVER.

WHATSOEVER.



IT
HOOOOOOORTS!!!!
MAKE IT
STOPPPPPP!!!!

NO, IT DOESN'T.
IF IT DID, YOU
WOULDN'T BE
COHERENT ENOUGH
TO FORM
SENTENCES.

YOU JUST
THINK IT DOES
BECAUSE THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO THINK.

OH LOOK.
COMPANY'S
COMING.

DROP
IT! DROP THE
FLAME THROWER,
RIGHT N--

UNFFFFF!





NEXT

